



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

09/769,604

Confirmation No.: 4397

Applicant

Stephen M. Howard, et al.

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Bv:

Paul D. Durkee Reg. No. 41,003

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated November 30, 2004, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.